



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

File

JUN 02 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL 7001 0320 0002 4540 8080
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Notification of Intent to File a Determination of Violation, Compliance Order and Notice of Right to Request a Hearing against Associated Plating Co.

Diana Crane
Quality Manager
Associated Plating Co.
9636 Ann St.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
CAD043079110

Dear Ms. Crane:

On November 17, 2003, representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), accompanied by a representative of the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department, conducted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") inspection at Associated Plating Co., located in Santa Fe Springs, CA, with EPA Identification Number CAD043079110. Based on information gathered during and after the inspection, the EPA is preparing to bring an administrative action against Associated Plating Co. to ensure compliance and assess penalties, pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) of RCRA, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(1)).

The allegations being considered are violations of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5 and the California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto and specified below. The allegations being considered are also violations of Section 3002 of RCRA 42 U.S.C §§6922, and its implementing regulations. The allegations against Associated Plating Co. are:

1. **Failure to make a hazardous waste determination** in violation of C.C.R. §66262.11 [40 C.F.R. § 262.11];
2. **Storage of hazardous waste without a permit** in violation of C.C.R. §§ 66262.34(a) and 66270.1 [40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a) and 270.1];
3. **Open containers** in violation of C.C.R. §§66262.34(a)(1)(A) and 66265.173(a) [40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(1)(i) and 265.173(a)];
4. **Failure to have an alarm in the waste storage area** in violation of C.C.R.

§§66262.34(a)(1)(A) and 66265.34(a) [40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(1)(i) and 265.34(a)];

5. **Lack of aisle space** in violation of C.C.R. §§66262.34(a)(1)(A) and 66265.35 [40 C.F.R. §§ 262.34(a)(1)(i) and 265.35)];
6. **Incomplete contingency plan** in violation of C.C.R. §§66262.34(a)(4) and 66265.52 [40 C.F.R. §§262.34(d)(4) and 265.52];

In anticipation of filing a Determination of Violation, Compliance Order and Notice of Right to Request a Hearing (hereinafter "Complaint") against Associated Plating Co., the EPA is extending Associated Plating Co. the opportunity to submit any information that the EPA should consider before issuing the Complaint. Relevant information may include any evidence of reliance on compliance assistance, additional compliance tasks performed subsequent to the inspection, or financial factors bearing on Associated Plating Co.'s ability to pay a civil penalty. In addition, the EPA encourages Associated Plating Co. to explore the possibility of settlement. If you are interested in commencing settlement negotiations, please contact Clint Seiter of my staff at (415) 972-3298, or have your counsel contact Julia Jackson in our Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3948 within 21 days from the receipt of this letter to schedule a meeting or conference call.

It is EPA's intention to file a Complaint against Associated Plating Co. within the next six (6) weeks unless Associated Plating Co. advises the EPA of substantial reasons not to proceed. Please send your response by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to:

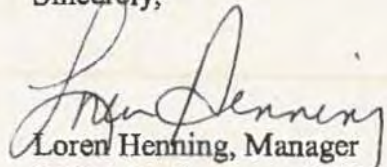
Clint Seiter
Mailcode: WST-3
RCRA Enforcement Office
US Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Any penalty proposed for violations of RCRA and its implementing regulations will be calculated pursuant to the EPA's "RCRA Civil Penalty Policy," a copy of which has been enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the EPA's "Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy" ("SEP Policy"). The EPA's SEP Policy describes the terms under which a commitment to perform an environmental project may mitigate, in part, an EPA civil penalty. The EPA offers small businesses a wide variety of compliance assistance resources and tools designed to assist them to comply with Federal and State environmental laws. These resources and tools are contained in the enclosed fact sheet of supplemental information for small businesses subject to an EPA enforcement action. Also enclosed for your information are requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC Notice") for "registrants" to provide information on environmental legal proceedings to the public. To determine the applicability of these requirements to your company, you should seek competent legal counsel as described in the enclosed SEC Notice.

EPA regulations governing confidentiality of business information are set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. For any portion of the information submitted which is entitled to confidential treatment, please assert a confidentiality claim according to 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). If the EPA determines that the information so designated meets the criteria set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 2.208, the information will be disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. The EPA will construe the failure to furnish a confidentiality claim within 14 calendar days from the date of your receipt of this letter as a waiver of that claim, and information may be made available to the public by the EPA without further notice.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Clint Seiter of my staff at (415) 972- 3298, or have your counsel contact Julia Jackson in our Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972- 3948.

Sincerely,


Loren Henning, Manager
RCRA Enforcement Office

Enclosures

cc (w/o enclosures):

Steve Lavinger, DTSC
Richard Kallman, Santa Fe Springs Fire Department
Julia Jackson (ORC)]

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Sent To *Associated Plating Co.*
Street, Apt. No.,
or PO Box No. *9636 Ann St.*
City, State, ZIP+4 *Santa Fe Springs CA 90670*

PS Form 3800, January 2001

See Reverse for Instructions